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HARTMANN'S PLANTATION

Cultivated Blueberries

PLANTS AND BERRIES

ROUTE 1

GRAND JUNCTION MICHIGAN

JAN. 19, 1950

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U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Washington 25, D.C.

Thank you for your inquiry concerning my Blueberry Plants.

They are of the improved Cultivated Hybrids. Utmost personal care has been taken to grow strong and vigorous rooted plants. State inspection is made each year to insure production of good healthy plants.

Field plantings of blueberries offers both enjoyment and profit that cannot be surpassed by any other fruit producing bush. An acre of blueberries at mature age will produce from 4,000 to 6,000 pints of fruit.

Blue berry plants are also used in the garden and for landscaping. By furnishing satisfactory conditions, an interested gardener can grow a plot of fruitful and delightful plants that will be a source of pride to him.

The ideal blueberry soil is fertile, has plentiful water supply, is well drained and aerated, is well supplied with organic matter and is acid. Acidity should be in the pH range of 4.5 to 5.5. Several materials may be used to increase soil acidity. Weathered sawdust, leaves, rotted wood, apple pomace, or acid peat are some. Sulphur or aluminum sulphate are also used.

When ordering blueberry plants for garden or small settings, it is advisable to purchase plants more than one year old.

One year old plants are two to six inches tall. They should be placed in nursery rows a year or two before setting out in field planting. They may be spaced 8" or 10" apart, with the rows 18" or 20" apart. The plants can be cultivated with a hand cultivator or hoe.

Two year old plants are 6 to 12 inches tall. Three year olds are 12 to 20 inches tall, and four year olds are 20" to 3 feet tall.

Three year old plants usually have a small amount of fruit the year they are set. But it is not until plants are four years and older that they produce in marked quantity.

Two year or older plants may be spaced 4 to 5 feet apart, with rows 10 ft. apart, if tractor cultivation is to be used. For garden or small plantings, where hand cultivation is to be used, a spacing of 4x6 feet is sufficient.

Any fruit buds or flowers that appear the first two years should be removed to prevent fruit bearing, until plants are well established.

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A good method for planting when soil is not sufficiently acid, is to dig a trench 3 ft. or wider, 2 ft. deep, and long enough to hold the number of plants to be set. The trench is then filled with a mixture of one part sand, one part forest litter, one part weathered sawdust or acid peat or partly rotted oak leaves. The plants are set in the middle of a bed so formed, watered, mulched and watered again if soil becomes dry. The plants should be set slightly deeper than they grew in the nursery. The soil packed so firmly about the roots that the plant will resist a strong tug without becoming loosened. If the plants are at all dry upon arrival they may be immersed in water a few hours before planting. Too much water around the roots of the plants during the growing season will tend to rot the root system, so care should be taken to keep the soil well aerated, cultivated and only moist during the summer.

Blueberry plants respond readily to fertilization. Although nitrogen generally affects growth and yield most, it has been found that a complete fertilizer is more desirable, because nitrogen used alone causes excessive short growths.

Young plants are easily hurt by too much fertilizer. None is needed the first year they are set. In the following spring (before plants are, too leafed out) a small handful of fertilizer, well spread out around each plant, is beneficial. A fertilizer with an 8-8-8 analysis is recommended. Instances of injury to plants has been noticed where muriate of potash was used in the analysis. Sulfate of potash is safer and better.

Blueberry plants are as easy to grow, and require no more care or treatment than other bush plants. Under favorable soil conditions the blueberry plant will thrive and produce a most delectable fruit, and provide beauty in its setting the year around.

Your order will receive my personal attention. If you wish any further information, drop me a line.

Very truly yours,

Edward Hartmann

